ISLAM'S REVIVAL OF JESUS' TEACHINGS

The Clear Religion Series - Part 6

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NO DOUBT THIS LIFE IS AN EXAMINATION
WHICH NEEDS YOUR FULL CONSIDERATION
AS TO WHAT YOU WILL TAKE TO
YOUR FINAL DESTINATION
ONLY TRUE BELIEF AND GOOD DEEDS ARE
YOUR WAY TO SALVATION

(Muhammad Sherif)

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HONORIFIC PHRASES IN THIS BOOK

(the Exalted): used after the mention of God/Allah to express: *Glorified and Exalted is He*

(bpuh): *Blessings and peace be upon him*; used after mention of the Prophet Muhammad

(pbuh): *Peace be upon him*; used after mention of any prophet or after mention of Angel Gabriel

(May Allah be pleased with him): used after mention of a male Companion of the Prophet

(May Allah be pleased with her): used after mention of a female Companion of the Prophet

ABOUT THE WORD ‘LORD’

The word *lord* in English has several related meanings. The original meaning is ‘master’ or ‘ruler’, and in this sense it is often used to refer to human beings: ‘the lord of the mansion’ or ‘*Lord* So-and-So’ (in the United Kingdom, for example). The word *Lord* with a capital L is used in the lexicon of Islam to refer to the One and Only God—Allah. In Islam, there is no ambiguity about the meaning of this word. While it is true that one may occasionally use the word *lord* (whether capitalized or not) to refer to a human being, in Islamic discourse the reference of this term is always clear from the context. Whereas for Christians, Hindus and other polytheists, the word *Lord* with a capital L may refer to Allah, to Jesus or to some imagined deity, for Muslims, there can be no plurality of meaning. Allah alone is the Lord, and the Lord is Allah—not Jesus, not Rama, not any other being.

ABOUT THE WORD ‘ALLAH’

Although the English word ‘God’ has often been used interchangeably in this book with the word Allah, there is a difference. ‘Allah’ is the word in Arabic that is translated as ‘God’. However, ‘Allah’ has a much more precise meaning than ‘God’. ‘Allah’ is not merely an Arabic term for the word ‘god’. Instead, the root word of the word ‘Allah’ is *ilah*, which means ‘a god’. There are countless numbers of made-up ‘gods’, but only One True God worthy of worship, Whose name is Allah. The word ‘Allah’ literally means ‘the worshipped’, or ‘the God’. Allah is, thus, the proper name for the **only Being that is worthy of worship in truth**, the True Creator of the universe. By saying ‘Allah’, Muslims are, in essence, negating every other entity which people wrongfully worship, while affirming worship to Him alone. The name ‘Allah’ is how God Almighty has referred to Himself in the Quran, and how Prophet Muhammad (blessings and peace be upon him) also referred to Him. Therefore, in this work, the term ‘Allah’ will often be used in reference to this One and Only God Who is worthy of worship.

INTRODUCTION

Every individual is born into a religious environment that is not necessarily in accordance with his or her choice; children are raised to follow the religion or ideology of their family, society, or culture. Even as new-born babies, they are assigned either the religion of their family or the ideology of the state; in some countries, the child's assigned religion is even recorded on the birth certificate. By the time individuals reach their teens, they have usually accepted the beliefs of their parents or their particular society. Since these beliefs have come to feel normal to them, they may give no thought to examining and possibly changing them.

However, individuals often encounter, or are exposed to, various beliefs and ideologies throughout the course of their lives, leading many to question long-held beliefs, traditions, or philosophical ideas. They begin to question the validity of their own beliefs. Seekers of truth often reach a point of confusion, especially upon realizing that the believers of every religion, sect, ideology, and philosophy claim to profess the one and only truth.

A main point of confusion in the minds of the majority of Christians is the relation between the two main two religions: Christianity and Islam.

The bulk of Christians perceive Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) and the teachings he brought to be in great conflict with the teachings brought by Jesus (pbuh).

This book and its twin, *The Amazing Prophecies of Muhammad in the Bible: Twenty-Eight Proofs of Muhammad's Prophethood in the Bible,* prove to the fair reader that Jesus indicated the advent of Prophet Muhammad (bpuh), and that the latter revived the teachings brought by the former.

Before we delve into the book, it should be noted that when beginning the search for the true religion, one should keep in mind the following four things:

Firstly, Allah has given us the ability and the intellect to discover the answer to this crucial question, which is also a life-changing decision: **What is the true religion?**

Secondly, Allah, the Most Compassionate, has not left us to go astray without any guidance. Indeed, He sent us prophets with scriptures to show us the right path.

Thirdly, we should always remember the underlying reason for this search: the everlasting life to come depends upon adopting the true religion in this life. This should be our ultimate motivation and a driving force to keep us searching until we are completely satisfied.[1]

Fourthly, we can only determine the true path and make a rational and correct decision if we

[1] The Bible, in its present form, confirms that seeking the truth is the main cause for salvation. In John 8:32, it has been stated, "and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." Muslims believe that the existing versions of the Bible contain elements of the original true message, although it has been altered significantly over time.

willingly put aside all the emotions and prejudices which often blind us to reality.

Kind regards,

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ISLAM'S REVIVAL OF THE BASIC TEACHINGS OF JESUS[2]

Introduction

All prophets were sent with the same message: monotheism in the worship of Allah, the Exalted, and testifying to the supremacy of His attributes as well as the Oneness of His essence. However, their messages may differ in terms of legislation (Sharia), for instance, regarding the manner of performing prayers, fasting, types of charity, and so on. This depends upon each nation's characteristics, according to Allah's wisdom, for He knows His creatures better than they know themselves.

Every prophet revived the basic beliefs that had been distorted since the departure of the preceding prophet. Islam, being the final message, revived the basic beliefs and practices of all the previous messages, including the message of Jesus. It elaborated them so that people would find them clear and straightforward to follow.

The following are some basic teachings of Prophet Jesus (pbuh) that were later revived in the message of Islam:

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[2] Compiled from Philips, *The True Message of Jesus Christ* and Caraballo, *My Great Love for Jesus Led Me to Islam*.

1. Revival of the creed of Allah's Oneness of essence

This fundamental principle was taught by Jesus (pbuh), as quoted below, but later abandoned by most Christians. It was revived by the message of Islam. All praise and thanks are for Allah for His guidance.

Here are fourteen proofs from the Bible and rational thought regarding Allah's Oneness in His essence, negating the doctrine of the Trinity:

1. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. (Deuteronomy 6:4)
2. ...that you may know and believe me and understand that I am he. Before me no god was formed, nor shall there be any after me. I, I am the Lord, and besides me there is no savior. (Isaiah 43:10-11)
3. I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. Who is like me? (Isaiah 44:6-7)
4. And there is no other god besides me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none besides me. Turn to me and be saved… To me every knee shall bow. (Isaiah 45:21-23)
5. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.[3] (John 17:3)
6. Worship the Lord your God and him only shall you serve. (Matthew 4:10)

[3] This verse indicates very clearly the distinction between Allah as God and Jesus as a prophet.

7. Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. (Mark 12:29)
8. I am the LORD, and there is no other. I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness… I the LORD speak the truth; I declare what is right. (Isaiah 45:18-19)
9. An additional important proof from the Bible that God (Allah), Jesus (pbuh), and the Holy Spirit are each distinct in their essence: the Bible (the Old and New Testaments) does not state anywhere that Allah, Jesus and the Holy Spirit comprise one entity called God, or one of three. This notion is merely a product of man-made, illogical, pagan thinking which people have blindly inherited from their parents and grandparents throughout the ages and generations, without any rational assessment or validation.
10. The following biblical verses, referring to God (Allah), contradict the creed of the Trinity in an indirect way:
    - His voice you have never heard, his form you have never seen. (John 5:37)
    - …whom no one has ever seen or can see. (1Timothy 6:16)
    - …you cannot see my face, for man shall not see me and live. (Exodus 33:20)

    According to these biblical verses, no one can see or hear God, yet according to Christian belief, God is supposed to be Jesus (pbuh). If that were the case, these verses would make no

sense because Jesus' family and followers, the Jews, and many other contemporaries saw and heard him during his lifetime. Obviously, these verses cannot be talking about Jesus, so they must be referring to someone else: God (Allah), the Highest, Whom no one can see or hear.

11. It is curious, too, that Jesus himself never mentioned the Trinity. He never said anything about divine entities forming a trinity. If there were a trinity, he would have explained it very clearly to his people because prophets came to convey the truth, not to hide it.
12. Jesus' concept of Allah was no different from that of all the previous prophets. All of them preached the Oneness of Allah instead of the concept of a 'Trinity'. Jesus taught the same monotheistic, unitarian message that had been revealed to all the prophets who came before him.
13. The doctrine of Trinity is irrational because nothing that comes out of Allah or is created by Him can become His equal or partner.
14. The Quran rejects the concept of the Trinity as strongly as it rejects the idea that Allah has a son. Allah has informed us that He is One, and this is a **fundamental tenet** of all the revelations. Three, by reason and by simple arithmetic, cannot be one. The Quran has addressed Christians on this subject:

    {O People of the Scripture, do not commit excess in your religion or say about Allah except

> the truth. The Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, was but a messenger of Allah and His word which He directed to Mary and a soul [created at a command] from Him. So believe in Allah and His messengers. And do not say: Three; desist—it is better for you. Indeed, Allah is but one God. Exalted is He above having a son. To Him belongs whatever is in the heavens and whatever is on the earth. And sufficient is Allah as Disposer of affairs.} *(Quran 4: 171)*

Islam revived the concept of Allah's Oneness in essence, and this is very different from Jesus' essence. It absolutely negated the doctrine of sonship (that Jesus is the son of God and, as such, is both human and divine) and the doctrine which states that Allah is Jesus (pbuh). Allah has said:

{They have certainly disbelieved who say: Allah is the Messiah, the son of Mary…} *(Quran 5: 72)*

He has also said in the noble Quran:

{Say: He is Allah, [Who is] One, Allah, the Eternal Refuge. He neither begets, nor is born, nor is there to Him any equivalent.}

(Quran 112: 1-4)

Allah is the most rich; He has no need for a son or a wife. That would be illogical, because He created both, as well as everything else in this universe. To believe that Jesus is the son of God, we have to close our hearts, twist our minds backwards, and blindly follow what the religious leaders and community members say, without any discussion or logical analysis.

2. Revival of Allah's supremacy in terms of His attributes and qualities

Allah has multiple and supreme attributes. He is the Most Gracious and Most Merciful. He was praised in all the revealed books and through the words of all His prophets. According to the Bible, Jesus (pbuh) taught that Allah is supreme in His attributes.

> And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?"
>
> And he said to him, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is only one [i.e., God] who is good. (Matthew 19:16-17)

He denied the attribution of 'infinite goodness' or 'perfect goodness' to himself, affirming that this attribute belongs to Allah alone.

In Isaiah (44:6-7, RSV), it has been reported that God (Allah) says, "I am the first and I am the last; besides me there is no god. **Who is like Me?**"

Islam effectively revived this basic concept. Numerous verses in the Quran and the sayings of Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) affirm that Allah:

- Has no partners or equals.
- Is 'invisible' because He is over His throne, and over the heavens, and no one can see Him in this life.
- Is not physically manifested or incarnated in other forms.
- Is eternal; He does not die.
- Begets not, nor is He begotten; He does not need anyone like a mother, a wife, or a son.

- Has no partners in His Godhead.
- Is self-sufficient; everyone depends upon Him and needs Him, but He neither depends upon anyone nor needs anything (such as food, drink, or help). For example, Allah has said in the Quran:

{…There is nothing like unto Him…} *(Quran 42: 11)*

{So do not assert similarities to Allah. Indeed, Allah knows, and you do not know.} *(Quran 16: 74)*

{…and for Allah is the highest attribute. And He is Exalted in Might, the Wise.} *(Quran 16: 60)*

This basic component of belief (that Allah deserves the best names and attributes) has been emphasized repeatedly in the noble Quran. This is evident to the reader of the Quran, who finds that numerous Quranic verses end with a reference to a divine attribute, such as {the All-Hearing, All-Seeing}, {the Most Forgiving, the All-Compassionate}, and {the Most High, the Most Great}.

3. Revival of the doctrine of monotheism (worship of Allah alone)

As mentioned earlier, the call to believe in Allah alone (monotheism), without any intermediary, was the message of all the prophets; therefore, any acts of worship must be directed to Allah alone. Because of the persisting deviation in this doctrine, it has had to be reaffirmed by all the prophets of Allah throughout the ages. The monotheistic message of Islam simply tells people that they should worship Allah only and

that they should not worship anyone or anything other than Allah in any way, shape or form.

However, Christians now call upon (supplicate to) Jesus (and others) besides Allah. Moreover, they direct all types of worship to Jesus. Associating others with Allah is nothing but polytheism. Surprisingly, although the text of the Bible has been altered significantly, it still contains evidence that Jesus called others towards monotheism:

- In Luke 4:5-7, the devil asked Jesus to worship him, promising him the authority and glory of all the kingdoms of this world.

And Jesus answered him, "It is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God, **and him only shall you serve**.'" (Luke 4:8)

- **And there is no other god besides me**, a righteous God and a Savior; there is **none besides me. Turn to Me** and be saved… **To Me every knee shall bow**. (Isaiah 45:21-23)
- **Turn to me** and be saved, all the ends of the earth! **For I am God, and there is no other.** (Isaiah 45:22)
- **You shall worship the Lord** your God and **him only** shall you serve. (Matthew 4:10)
- In the Bible, the true God emphatically testifies:

I am the LORD, and there is **no other.** I did not speak in secret, in a land of darkness… I the LORD speak the truth; I declare what is right. (Isaiah 45:18-19)

Thus, the essence of the message of Jesus was that only Allah deserves to be worshipped; thus,

worship directed to anyone or anything besides or along with Him is false. It is important to note that worshipping others besides God is a major alteration of Jesus' message because the Bible never reported that Jesus (pbuh) wanted anyone to worship him, either directly or indirectly through idols such as a statue of him or a cross.

After Jesus departed this world, the call to monotheism became distorted by later followers, beginning with Paul, who turned that pure and simple message into a complicated Trinitarian philosophy which justified the worship of Jesus, followed by what some consider to be worship of Jesus' mother, Mary, the angels, and the saints. Catholics, for example, have a long list of saints to whom they turn in times of need.

Worshipping others besides Allah is irrational and in vain because neither the living nor the dead can answer the prayers (supplications) of humankind. The worship of Allah should not be shared with His creation, because they are people just like us; they are not the creators. They are merely weak creatures like us; they need food, drink, shelter, and help, and after their death (or ascension, in the case of Jesus), they cannot even hear the ones who call them!

Islam revived the doctrine of monotheism. For example, Allah has mentioned in the Quran:

{They have certainly disbelieved who say: Allah is the Messiah, the son of Mary, while the Messiah has said: O Children of Israel, worship Allah, my Lord and your Lord. Indeed, he who associates others with Allah—

Allah has forbidden him paradise, and his abode is the fire. And there are not for the wrongdoers any helpers.}

(Quran 5: 72)

{Indeed, those you [polytheists] call upon besides Allah are slaves like you...} *(Quran 7: 194)*

{...Is there a deity with Allah? High is Allah above whatever they associate with Him.} *(Quran 27: 63)*

{...Is there a deity with Allah? Say: Produce your proof, if you should be truthful.} *(Quran 27: 64)*

{And I did not create the jinn and humankind except to worship Me.}

(Quran 51: 56)

All other supposed gods and deities whom people worship and call upon, such as Jesus, the Holy Spirit, Brahma, Shiva, Krishna, or Buddha are not gods; nor are they manifestations of the one true God (Allah).

Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) said:

«Supplication is an essential act of worship.»

(An authentic hadith narrated by Tirmidhi and Abu Dawood)

Consequently, if a person claims to be a Muslim but prays to a prophet (including Muhammad), saint, statue, or anything else, then he or she has stepped out of the bounds of Islam.

4. Revival of the creed of Jesus' prophethood

Nine Biblical proofs of Jesus' prophethood

There are many verses in the New Testament which affirm Jesus' prophethood and not divinity.

1. And this is eternal life, that they know you the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you **have sent**.[4] (John 17:3)
2. The people of his time are recorded as referring to Jesus as a prophet. "And the crowds said, 'This is the **prophet Jesus**, from Nazareth of Galilee.'" (Matthew 21:11)
3. Jesus referred to himself as a prophet. "And Jesus said to them, '**A prophet** is not without honour, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.'" (Mark 6:4)
4. In the previous verses, Jesus is referred to as having been sent as a messenger. In Matthew 10:40, Jesus was purported to have said, "Whoever receives you receives me, and whoever receives me receives him who **sent me**."
5. It is narrated that Jesus also said:

I can do nothing on my own. **As I hear, I judge**, and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will but the will of him **who sent me**. (John 5:30)

6. Jesus was also reported to have been referred to as a 'teacher', which is the role of all the prophets.

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[4] This verse indicates very clearly the distinction between God, the deity, and Jesus, the prophet. See also John 4:34, 5:30, 7:16, 7:28, 11:42, 13:16 and 14:24.

And behold, a man came up to him, saying, "Teacher, what good deed must I do to have eternal life?" (Matthew 19:16)

7. In Matthew 19:17, Jesus responded to the one who addressed him as "Teacher", saying, "Why do you ask me about what is good? There is **only one [i.e., God] who is good**." Jesus here rejects being called 'good' and states that only God is truly good; he clearly implies that he is not God. Also, Jesus here rejects being called 'perfectly good' because perfection belongs only to God (Allah).
8. In Matthew 5:17-18, Jesus stated:

Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them. For truly, I say to you, until heaven and earth pass away, not an iota, not a dot, will pass from the Law until all is accomplished.

9. In Matthew 5:19, Jesus Christ, in accordance with the role of any prophet, was reported to have insisted on strict obedience to the commandments of Allah:

Therefore whoever relaxes one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called least in the kingdom of heaven, but whoever does them and teaches them will be called great in the kingdom of heaven.

5. Revival of the doctrine of Jesus' humanness

No evidence in the Bible for the divinity of Jesus (pbuh)

Nowhere in the Gospels was Jesus reported to have called himself 'God' or one of three. If this were the case, then it would have been mentioned very clearly in the Bible at least once because Jesus—like all other prophets—was sent to enlighten his people about the truth and to clear up doubts, not to confuse them further.

Indeed, the Bible in its present form points to Jesus' humanness in many verses, such as these from the Gospel of John:

but now you seek to kill me, a man who has told you the truth that I heard from God... (John 8:40)

So Jesus said to them, "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am he..." (John 8:28)[5]

Even in some of the writings of Paul, which the Church considers sacred, Jesus is referred to as a man, distinct and different from God (Allah). In 1 Timothy 2:5, Paul writes, "For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, **the man Christ Jesus**."[6]

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[5] Jesus (pbuh) is referred to as the 'Son of Man' almost 200 times in the Bible. This is an obvious conflict if he is also supposed to be God and the 'Son of God'.

[6] All the messengers are mediators between God and people in the sense that they are His messengers, who deliver His message.

Today, many modern scholars of Christianity hold that Jesus Christ was not 'God'.

In 1977, a group of seven biblical scholars, including leading Anglican theologians and other New Testament scholars, published a book called *The Myth of God Incarnate*, which caused a great uproar in the General Synod of the Church of England. In the preface, the editor, John Hick, wrote:

> The writers of this book are convinced that another major theological development is called for in this last part of the twentieth century. The need arises from growing knowledge of Christian origins, and involves a recognition that Jesus was (as he is presented in Act 2.21) 'a man approved by God' for a special role within the divine purpose, and that the later conception of him as God incarnate, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity living a human life, is a mythological or poetic way of expressing his significance for us.[7]

It should be noted that the concept of Jesus' humanness is held not only by Muslims but also by Jews and some early sects of Christianity such as the Ebionites (Nazarenes), Cerinthians, Basilidians, and Goths. These sects maintained that Jesus was a beloved prophet of God, and they did not elevate him above his rightful status. Even today, there are churches in Asia and Africa, in addition to the Unitarian church and Jehovah's Witnesses, who do not worship Jesus as God. It is important to stress, though, that denying the divinity of Jesus is not

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7 Philips, *The True Message of Jesus Christ*, 61.

enough to free them on the Day of Judgement unless they also accept Islam, Prophet Muhammad (bpuh), and the last revelation from Allah.

Both Christianity and Islam teach that Jesus was fully human; he was a man who was born, got hungry and thirsty, got tired and slept, felt pain, was tempted, and had other physical functions. But Christians are asked to believe that while Jesus was fully human, he was somehow – at the same time – fully divine. In other words, He is the Creator (and was not created Himself), yet his human body was created in Mary's womb. In Islam, God is the Creator, not the created; He is All Powerful and cannot be constrained by human limitations; He is All Knowing, All Seeing, and All Hearing. How can we accept that God Himself, the Creator and the All Powerful, was a human being like us, with our human frailties?

The truth about sonship[8]

In the Bible, the expression 'son' has been used to refer to many of the earlier prophets. Israel, for example, was called the 'Son of God' in one of the books of Moses, "Then you shall say to Pharaoh, 'Thus says the LORD, Israel is **my firstborn son**." (Exodus 4:22)

The same title was given to David.

I will tell of the decree: The Lord said to me, "**You are my Son**; today I have begotten you. (Psalms 2:7)

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[8] Compiled from Caraballo, *My Great Love for Jesus Led Me to Islam*.

Likewise, Prophet Solomon was called the Son of God.

> He shall build a house for my name. He shall be **my son**, and I will be **his father**, and I will establish his royal throne in Israel forever. (I Chronicles, 22:10)

Throughout the Bible, the word 'son' is used to refer to '**nearness in love**'. This is ascertained when we see Jesus himself saying that every man who did **the will of the Father** in heaven was a Son of God.

Jesus was reported to have said:

> Love your enemies… so that you may be **sons of your Father** who is in Heaven. (Matthew 5:44-45)

> Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the **sons of God**. (Matthew 5:9)

Hence, what made a man worthy of being called a 'Son of God' was a devout life and kind, merciful behaviour.

The Bible proves that Jesus actually rejected being called 'Son of God':

> And demons also came out of many, crying, "You are the Son of God!" **But he rebuked them** and would not allow them to speak, because they knew that he was the Christ. (Luke 4:41)

In view of the above, there is **no justification for regarding Jesus as the Son of God in an exclusive and unique meaning**. When Jesus used the phrase 'Son of God', it **meant exactly the same as it meant when it was used for Adam, Israel,**

David and Solomon (peace be upon them)—that is, the nearest in love to God.

The humanness and prophethood of Jesus (pbuh) are affirmed in many verses of the Quran to correct the grave mistake of elevating him to the status of God (Allah) or describing him as the Son of God (Allah).

In eleven different passages of the Quran, found in nine different chapters, Allah has denied having a son: 2: 116, 10: 68, 11: 117, 18: 4, 19: 77, 19: 88, 19: 91-92, 21: 26, 25: 2, 39: 4, and 72: 3. For example, He says:

{And they say: The Most Merciful has taken [for Himself] a son. You have done an atrocious thing. The heavens almost rupture therefrom and the earth splits open and the mountains collapse in devastation that they attribute to the Most Merciful a son. And it is not appropriate for the Most Merciful that He should take a son. There is no one in the heavens and earth but that he comes to the Most Merciful as a slave. He has enumerated them and counted them a [full] counting. And all of them are coming to Him on the Day of Resurrection alone.}

(Quran 19: 88-95)

Allah, the Exalted, has also mentioned:

{The Messiah, son of Mary, was not but a messenger; [other] messengers have passed on before him. And his mother was a supporter of truth. They both used to eat food. Look how We make clear to them the signs; then look how they are deluded.}

(Quran 5: 75)

Clearly, the idea that Jesus was God or that he was the son of God is textually weak and logically impossible.

Important notes

1. In none of the Christian or Muslim scriptures did Mary claim that she was a mother of God or that her son was a God. As mentioned in the Quran, she was a pious, virtuous woman who worshipped God. It was never reported in the Bible that Jesus (pbuh) instructed anyone to pray to pictures or statues of her, and he never did this himself.
2. There are many verses in the Quran that also confirm Prophet Muhammad's human attributes, in order to prevent his followers from elevating him to a divine or semi-divine status as happened with Prophet Jesus (pbuh). For example, Allah instructs Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) to inform all those who hear his message:

   {Say: I am only a man like you, to whom has been revealed that your god is one God. So whoever would hope for the meeting with his Lord—let him do righteous work and not associate in the worship of his Lord anyone.} *(Quran 18: 110)*

6. Revival of the doctrine of Jesus' ascension (negating the crucifixion)

Some of the changes made to Prophet Jesus' message after his ascension are so fundamental that they **strike at the very root of Christianity.** For example, the only two references to the ascension of Jesus that were found in the Gospels of Mark and Luke in the King James Version (KJV) were removed from the 1952 Revised Standard Version (RSV). Before the removal of these passages, the relevant verses read as follows:

> So then after the Lord had spoken unto them, **he was received up into heaven**, and sat on the right hand of God. (Mark 16:19, KJV)

> And it came to pass; while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and **carried up to heaven**. (Luke 24:51, KJV)

The relevant verse in the Gospel of Mark was removed, along with a number of other verses that immediately preceded and followed it, sixteen verses in total.

In the 1952 RSV, Luke 24:51 read, "While he blessed them, he parted from them." The words "carried up to heaven" had been removed.[9]

Islam revived the creed of Jesus' ascension. The Quran confirms the earliest scriptures, which inform us that Allah raised him when his enemies

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[9] The verses numbered Mark 16:9-20, as well as the words "carried up to heaven" in Luke 24:51, were restored in 1971, and they are found in today's RSV with a footnote explaining that some of these verses were not found in early manuscripts. (Editor)

attempted to crucify him. Allah replaced Jesus with another person who resembled him, so in reality, it was this other person who was crucified. To this day, Christians believe that Jesus himself was the one who was killed, and to commemorate that, many wear crosses or crucifixes or hang them in their homes, even though Jesus (pbuh) never asked them to do that and never did it himself.

Allah has mentioned in the Quran:

{And [for] their saying: Indeed, we have killed the Messiah, Jesus, the son of Mary, the messenger of Allah. And they did not kill him, nor did they crucify him; but [another] was made to resemble him to them. And indeed, those who differ over it are in doubt about it. They have no knowledge of it except the following of assumption. And they did not kill him, for certain. Rather, Allah raised him to Himself. And ever is Allah Exalted in Might and Wise.} *(Quran 4: 157-158)*

7. Revival of the prohibition of augury[10]

Knowledge of what is going to happen in the future is an attribute of Allah alone. No one knows what will happen in the near or distant future except Him. The revealed scriptures prohibited augury and witchcraft because those who engage in these practices try to raise themselves to the level of Allah in terms of assuming one of His divine attributes.

[10] Augury has many meanings, some of which are: prognostication, prophecy and divination. Of course, prophecy is a gift that Allah gave to the prophets alone, by revealing to them news of future events that human beings could not otherwise have known, so that sceptics could see evidence of their prophethood.

Forecasting the weather is not considered part of augury and witchcraft because weather forecasters depend upon physical measurements and mathematical calculations. This is unlike augury and witchcraft, where a person claims to know what is going to happen in the future, just like Allah knows. In fact, He alone is All-Knowing.

Jesus prohibited augury and witchcraft. Leviticus 19:26 says, "You shall not eat any flesh with the blood in it. You shall not interpret omens or tell fortunes."

Islam revived this doctrine that Allah alone knows the future. Allah has mentioned:

{…The unseen is only for Allah [to administer]…} *(Quran 10: 20)*

{Say: None in the heavens and earth knows the unseen except Allah, and they do not perceive when they will be resurrected.}

(Quran 27: 65)

Based on this, Islam strictly prohibits consulting fortune-tellers, clairvoyants and the like. Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) said:

«If anyone consults a fortune-teller or sooth-sayer and believes in what he (or she) says, then (that person) has disbelieved in what was revealed to Muhammad (bpuh).»

(Recorded by Bukhari and Abu Dawood)

8. Revival of the prohibition of witchcraft

The Old Testament quotation above (Leviticus 19:26) makes it clear that witchcraft is prohibited in the teachings of Moses, Jesus, and all the prophets (peace be upon them all). The reason for this is that sorcerers and practitioners of the occult seek satanic assistance to do their magic, and this is against the teachings of all the prophets.

Islam revived the prohibition of witchcraft.

«Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) said: Avoid the seven great destructive sins.

His Companions asked: O Allah's Messenger, what are they?

He said: To worship others besides Allah, **to practice sorcery**…»

(Recorded by Bukhari and Muslim)

Revival of the prohibition of harmful practices

Without doubt, the doctrinal teachings about the nature of Allah and Jesus were revived by the religion of Islam. At the same time, some of the prohibitions (related to practices that are harmful to the individual and/or to society) taught by Jesus and the earlier prophets were revived as well.

9. Revival of the prohibition of taking interest

Upholding the law, Prophet Jesus opposed the giving or taking of interest because the texts of the Old Testament expressly forbid interest.

You shall not charge interest on loans to your brother, interest on money, interest on food, interest on anything that is lent for interest. (Deuteronomy 23:19)

Islam revived what Jesus taught regarding the prohibition of interest:

{O you who have believed, fear Allah and give up what remains [due to you] of interest, if you should be believers.} *(Quran 2: 278)*

There is great wisdom in the prohibition of interest. Firstly, the one who earns income through interest does so without working for it, whereas Islam strongly encourages working for a living. Secondly, the one who borrows does so due to a lack of financial resources, but the interest creates an even greater debt burden because the borrower must repay the principle coupled with interest charges. Thirdly, a system based on interest can lead to inflation, recession, and even a complete collapse of financial markets, as we have witnessed in our time. Many nations in both the developed and developing worlds have become enslaved by the system of usury and interest.

It is undisputed that the 2008-2009 world economic downturn (and possible collapse of many world economies), which started in the United States and spread to Europe and Asia, was caused directly by excessive lending in amounts several times more than the actual worth of the assets in loans. The interest charges were spread over many resold loans, resulting in an exaggerated and

unrealistic inflation of the value of the actual money lent. This false representation of value meant that it would be impossible for most debtors to pay back such loans.

Allah, the Almighty, forbade usury in three places in the Quran (2: 275-278,3: 130, and 4: 161).

{Those who consume interest cannot stand [on the Day of Resurrection] except as one stands who is being beaten by Satan into insanity. That is because they say: Trade is [just] like interest. But Allah has permitted trade and has forbidden interest. So whoever has received an admonition from his Lord and desists may have what is past, and his affair rests with Allah. But whoever returns to [dealing in interest or usury]—those are the companions of the fire; they will abide eternally therein.} *(Quran 2: 275)*

In Islam, the distinction between legitimate (allowed) and forbidden practices is very clear. Islam permits loans and the borrowing of money, but without interest charges. In fact, the Quran highly encourages forgiving a debt in order to remove the hardship from the borrower, especially if he or she is in financial difficulties. Allah has promised a great reward for the one who is able to make this sacrifice.

Muslims who abide by these rules consequently never suffer negative repercussions. In contrast, when human beings disobey God Almighty, they are engulfed by disastrous results. These may come in the form of threats to health, financial collapse, break-up of the social fabric, and much more. So it

is clear that Islam warns people about many serious ailments afflicting our societies in this day and age; it is equally clear that these problems are recognized by the world community as harmful. This is a powerful sign that Islam is the true religion and that Allah (Hallowed is He) is the true God, the One and only divine Lord and saviour.

10. Revival of the prohibition of consuming pork

Jesus followed the laws of Moses and did not eat pork at all.

> And the swine, because it parts the hoof and is cloven-footed but does not chew the cud, is unclean to you. You shall not eat any of their flesh, and you shall not touch their carcasses; they are unclean to you. (Leviticus 11:7-8)

Nevertheless, most Christians today eat pork. Islam revived the prohibition of consuming the meat of the pig. Allah has mentioned:

{He has only forbidden to you dead animals, blood, the flesh of swine, and that which has been dedicated to other than Allah. But whoever is forced [by necessity], neither desiring [it] nor transgressing [its limit], there is no sin upon him. Indeed, Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.}

(Quran 2: 173)

11. Revival of the prohibition of consuming blood

Jesus also did not eat anything containing blood, nor did he consume blood itself. God (Allah) is recorded as having instructed Prophet Moses in the Torah:

> Only you shall not eat the **blood**; you shall pour it upon the earth like water. (Deuteronomy 12:16)

> You shall not eat any flesh with the **blood** in it. You shall not interpret omens or tell fortunes. (Leviticus 19:26)

This prohibition has been revived in many verses of the Quran, one of which mentions:

{Say: I do not find within that which was revealed to me [anything] forbidden to one who would eat it unless it be a dead animal or blood spilled out or the flesh of swine—for indeed, it is impure…}[11]

(Quran 6: 145)

12. Revival of the prohibition of adultery

The Bible says about adultery:

> You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.' But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart. If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it

[11] Quran 2: 173 (mentioned earlier) prohibits the meat of the pig (pork, ham, etc.) as well as the blood of any animal (even if the animal is lawful to eat). Blood must be drained from the slaughtered animal before preparing the meat for eating.

> out and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body be thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. For it is better that you lose one of your members than that your whole body go into hell. (Matthew 5:27-30)

Islam revived the prohibition of adultery by considering fornication to be amongst the strictly forbidden acts. Allah, the Most High, has mentioned:

{And those who do not invoke with Allah another deity or kill the soul which Allah has forbidden [to be killed], except by right, and do not commit unlawful sexual intercourse. And whoever should do that will meet a penalty.} *(Quran 25: 68)*

{And do not approach unlawful sexual intercourse. Indeed, it is ever an immorality and is evil as a way.} *(Quran 17: 32)*

As a precaution against adultery and fornication, all acts which might lead to them are also prohibited. Thus, Islam has strictly forbidden men from being alone with non-*mahram* women,[12] mixing with them freely, or even shaking hands with them. At the same time, it encourages men and women to dress modestly and to speak to non-mahrams with a firm, business-like voice that is not enticing.

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[12] *mahram*: a man with whom marriage is not permitted; for example, a woman's brother or father. Non-mahram men are those whom a woman is permitted to marry.

At this point, one may inquire about the wisdom behind the prohibition of adultery. The answer is that premarital and extra-marital relationships are destructive to the family system that is so precious in Islam. Intimate relationships outside the sacred bond of marriage have numerous harmful effects, including diseases such as HIV/AIDS and children who are looked down upon in society and considered to be without a lineage.

Revival of various other beneficial practices

Along with the doctrinal teachings about the nature of Allah and Jesus that were revived by the religion of Islam, some of the detailed practices pertaining to everyday life, which Jesus and the earlier prophets had taught by example, were revived as well. Our list continues with a few examples of those teachings.

13. Revival of ablution before prayer

The significance of ablution is evident when we recall that it is a form of preparation for prayer, whereby worshippers cleanse themselves before they stand before Allah, the Creator.

Jesus used to wash his limbs before performing the prayer, in compliance with Old Testament teachings. Moses and Aaron have been recorded as doing the same:

He set the basin between the tent of meeting and the altar, and put water in it for washing, with which Moses and Aaron and his sons **washed their hands and their feet**... as the LORD commanded Moses. (Exodus 40:30-32)

Islam revived ablution for prayer; the Quran has instructed:

{O you who have believed, when you rise to [perform] prayer, wash your faces and your forearms to the elbows and wipe over your heads and wash your feet to the ankles…} *(Quran 5: 6)*

Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) taught his followers (through his statements and his example) that ablution includes washing the hands, rinsing the mouth, washing the face, washing the arms, wiping the head, and finally washing the feet.

14. Revival of performing prayers physically

Jesus performed his prayers physically, not just through supplication. Mark 14:32 states, "And they went to a place called Gethsemane. And he [Jesus] said to his disciples, 'Sit here, while I pray.'"

Luke 5:16 says, "But he would withdraw to desolate places and pray."

Islam revived prayers as a main act of worship. In numerous Quranic verses, Allah, the Exalted, has instructed believers to perform prayers. For example:

{And establish prayer and give zakah and bow with those who bow [in worship and obedience].} *(Quran 2: 43)*

Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) taught his followers (through words and actions) that performing

prayers includes standing up, bowing, and prostrating. Interestingly, the manner of performing prayer that Jesus taught is more in line with the way Muslims pray than with what Christians do today. According to Isaiah 45:23, God is reported to have said, "To me every **knee shall bow**."

Jesus is described in the Gospels as prostrating during prayer. The method of prostration in prayer followed by Jesus was not of his own making. It was the mode of prayer of the prophets before him. In the Old Testament, Genesis 17:3, Prophet Abraham is recorded to have fallen on his face in prayer; in Numbers 16:22 and 20:6, both Moses and Aaron are recorded to have fallen on their faces in worship; in Joshua 5:14 & 7:6, Joshua fell on his face to the earth in worship; in I Kings 18:42, Elijah bowed down on the ground and put his face between his knees. This was the way of the prophets.[13]

"Christians today kneel down, clasping their hands, in a posture which cannot be ascribed to Jesus or others."[14]

In many of his statements, Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) taught his followers the manner of prayer, including bowing down and prostrating to Allah.

15. Revival of compulsory charity (zakah)

Jesus (pbuh) confirmed the institution of compulsory charity known as 'the tithe (tenth)', which was

[13] Philips, *The True Message of Jesus Christ*, 87-88.
[14] Philips, *The True Message of Jesus Christ*, 87.

required from the annual harvest. "You shall tithe all the yield of your seed that comes from the field year by year." (Deuteronomy 14:22)

The Quran is a revival of Jesus' teachings. It teaches Muslims to pay charity at the time of harvest. Allah has mentioned:

{And He it is who causes gardens to grow, [both] trellised and untrellised, and palm trees and crops of different [kinds of] food and olives and pomegranates, similar and dissimilar. Eat of [each of] its fruit when it yields and give its due [zakah] on the day of its harvest.[15] And be not excessive. Indeed, He does not like those who commit excess.} *(Quran 6: 141)*

The system of charity is well-organized; it sets different rates for cash, precious metals, various trade goods, agricultural products and cattle.[16] The purpose of charity is very well-defined; it is to provide social support to the needy people in the community, not to provide a comfortable living for clerics.[17]

The categories of those who are eligible to receive such charity have also been clearly defined in the Quran. (See 9: 60.)

In Islam, the zakah is obligatory, but voluntary charity is also highly promoted and encouraged.

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[15] The zakah due is one-tenth if the field is naturally irrigated (e.g., by rain) and one-twentieth if it is artificially irrigated (by the farmer's own efforts). This obligatory charity is levied on other material resources, like trade and livestock, as well.

[16] For example, the amount of zakah for cash that has been held for at least one year is 2.5%.

[17] Philips, *The True Message of Jesus Christ*, 92.

Often, Muslims voluntarily give far more from their wealth than the obligatory minimum amount. Allah promises great rewards for donors who give charity based on sincere intentions. Throughout the history of Islam, there are many accounts of people who gave their entire wealth to the poor, seeking Allah's pleasure through this remarkable act of charity.

16. Revival of fasting

According to the Gospels, Jesus fasted for forty days. Matthew 4:2 says:

> And he fasted forty days and forty nights, and afterwards he was hungry.[18] This was in accordance with the practice of the earlier prophets. Moses is also recorded in Exodus 34:28 to have fasted. It says: And he was there with the Lord forty days and forty nights, he neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote upon the tables the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.[19]

The Quran is a revival of many of the teachings of Jesus and Moses. It teaches the believers to fast during the month of Ramadan. Allah has mentioned in the Quran that fasting is enjoined on the Muslims as it was enjoined on previous nations.

{O you who have believed, decreed upon you is fasting as it was decreed upon those before you, that you may become righteous.}

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[18] See also Matthew 6:16.

[19] Philips, *The True Message of Jesus Christ*, 92.

(Quran 2: 183)

In addition, Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) affirmed that Prophet David used to fast regularly; he said:

«The best manner of (voluntary) fasting is that of my brother David, who used to fast every other day.»

(Recorded by Bukhari and Muslim)

17. Revival of greeting with the supplication of peace

The greeting of peace was mentioned in the Old Testament:

> So David sent ten young men. And David said to the young men, "Go up to Carmel, and go to Nabal and greet him in my name.[6] And thus you shall greet him: '**Peace be to you, and peace be to your house, and peace be to all that you have**. (1 Samuel 25:5-6)

According to the New Testament, Jesus greeted his followers with a greeting of peace.

> As they were talking about these things, Jesus himself stood among them, and said to them, "**Peace to you**!" (Luke 24:36)

> Jesus said to them again, "**Peace be with you**. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." (John 20:21)

> Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "**Peace be with you**." (John 20:26)

Whatever house you enter, first say, '**Peace be to this house!**' (Luke 10:5)

Followers of Judaism have continued to use this as a greeting (in Hebrew: *Shalom aleichem*). Christians do not use this as a greeting, but some denominations have a rite of peace as part of their church services. In 1969, the Catholic Church introduced the "sign of peace" during the Mass, when churchgoers turn to those around them, shake hands, and say, "Peace be with you."

As a religion of peace and respect for others, Islam revived this noble greeting. The Quran instructs all those who enter homes to give the greetings of peace, and Allah has instructed the believers to greet each other with peace as well.

{And when those come to you who believe in Our verses, say: Peace be upon you....} *(Quran 6: 54)*

Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) also taught his followers to give this greeting whenever they met each other. The greeting of peace extends even to the heavens; the angels will greet those who enter paradise with the same greeting of peace. To this day, Muslims around the world – no matter their national origin or native language, and no matter whether or not they know each other – greet one another with the Arabic phrase *Assalamu alaykum* (Peace be upon you).

18. Revival of veiling (hijab) for women

The women around Jesus veiled themselves according to the practice of women around the earlier prophets. Their garments were loose and covered their bodies completely, and they wore scarves which covered their hair.[20]

And Rebekah lifted up her eyes, and when she saw Isaac, she dismounted from the camel and said to the servant, "Who is that man, walking in the field to meet us?" The servant said, "It is my master." So **she took her veil and covered herself**.

(Genesis 24:64-65)

Islam encourages decency and modest dress for both men and women. Muslim women are instructed to cover their bodies and to wear veils that cover their heads and chests. Allah has mentioned:

{And tell the believing women to reduce [some] of their vision and guard their private parts and not expose their adornment except that which [necessarily] appears thereof and to wrap [a portion of] their head covers over their chests and not expose their adornment…}

(Quran 24: 31)

Veiling, as a part of modest dress, protects women from possible social harm and discourages

[20] Philips, *The True Message of Jesus Christ*, 88.

> males from approaching females with dishonourable intentions. Allah instructed:

{O Prophet, tell your wives and your daughters and the women of the believers to bring down over themselves [part] of their outer garments. That is more suitable that they will be known and not be abused. And ever is Allah Forgiving and Merciful.} *(Quran 33: 59)*

> In today's society, disregard for the hijab—and for modesty in general—is one factor that has led to women being treated as objects, whereby their bodies are used as commodities from which to acquire pleasure. It is no surprise then that many companies use women as advertising props to entice customers into purchasing their products. The fact remains that even in the eyes of those who use women as objects, only those who keep more of their bodies covered and hidden from the public eye are regarded as modest.

19. Revival of polygyny

There is no record of Prophet Jesus opposing polygyny. The Old Testament records a number of examples of polygamous marriages among the prophets, including these:

> So, after Abram [Abraham] had lived ten years in the land of Canaan, Sarai, Abram's wife, took Hagar the Egyptian, her servant, and gave her to Abram her husband as a wife.
>
> (Genesis 16:3)

And David lived with Achish at Gath, he and his men, every man with his household, and David with his two wives, Ahinoam of Jezreel, and Abigail of Carmel, Nabal's widow.

(1 Samuel 27:3)

Solomon is said to have "…had 700 wives, who were princesses, and 300 concubines." (1 Kings 11:3)

Solomon's son Rehoboam "took eighteen wives and sixty concubines." (2 Chronicles 11:21)

The Old Testament even specified laws regarding the division of inheritance in polygamous circumstances, which indicates that the practice was a normal one in the society.[21] (See Deuteronomy 21:15-16.) Jewish law actually requires polygyny in some situations. If a man dies without children, his wife is required to marry his brother even if the brother is already married; the reason is to produce an heir for her deceased husband, and her first child is considered to be his heir.

Islam revived polygyny, this practice of the earlier prophets, but it imposed stringent restrictions. It permits a man to marry to up to four women, with strict conditions stipulating justice and equal treatment among the wives as the basic condition for polygyny. Allah has stated:

{…marry those that please you of [other] women, two or three or four. But if you fear that you will not be

[21] Philips, *The True Message of Jesus Christ*, 94.

just, then [marry only] one or those your right hand possesses…} *(Quran 4: 3)*

The only restriction on polygamy (polygyny) recorded in earlier scriptural teaching was the ban (in Leviticus 18:18) on taking a wife's sister as a "rival wife".[22] This law is applied in Islam as well, as stated in Quran 4: 23.

20. Revival of male circumcision

Jesus was circumcised. According to Luke 2:21:

> And at the end of eight days, when he was circumcised, he was called Jesus, the name given by the angel before he was conceived in the womb.

Prophet Abraham (pbuh), whom the Quran tells us was neither a Jew nor a Christian, was the first to be circumcised, according to the Old Testament:

> And God said to Abraham, "As for you, you shall keep my covenant, you and your offspring after you throughout their generations. This is my covenant, which you shall keep, between me and you and your offspring after you: Every male among you shall be circumcised. You shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and you. **He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised**." (Genesis 17:9-12)

Today circumcision is not widely treated as a religious or legal requirement among Christians, and rates of circumcision vary across different

[22] Philips, *The True Message of Jesus Christ*, 95.

countries. Although it is a controversial topic for some, the medical benefits have been documented. In 2012, the American Academy of Pediatrics website published its "Circumcision Policy Statement," stating:

Evaluation of current evidence indicates that the health benefits of newborn male circumcision outweigh the risks and that the procedure's benefits justify access to this procedure for families who choose it. Specific benefits identified included prevention of urinary tract infections, penile cancer, and transmission of some sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.

According to the World Health Organization website:

There is compelling evidence that male circumcision reduces the risk of heterosexually acquired HIV infection in men by approximately 60%.

Islam revives male circumcision and makes it a requirement.[23] Abu Hurayrah (may Allah be pleased with him) narrated that Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) said:

«There are five practices which correspond with the natural human inclination: shaving pubic hair and underarm hair, **(male) circumcision**, trimming the moustache, and trimming fingernails and toenails.» (Recorded by Bukhari, Muslim and others)

[23] Although circumcision is highly recommended for a man who becomes Muslim, Islamic scholars say that if he is unable to do it, it should not be insisted upon, and this does not affect the validity of his embracing Islam.

Conclusion

Islam revived the faith of the prophets, which is based upon the belief in one God (Allah). Along with belief, they revived many rules and practices related to morality, justice and pure living. Hence, the Islamic way of life is much closer to that of Jesus and the previous prophets (peace be upon them all) than that of any other group of people who claim to be their followers.

WHY ISLAM?

Every person should revert to Islam because it is the birthright of every person and the original imprint on every human soul at birth.

Every person should revert to Islam because Allah has sealed and superseded all previous messages with Islam. Allah has mentioned to all people:

{…This day I have perfected for you your religion and completed My favour upon you and have approved for you Islam as religion…}

(Quran 5: 3)

Every person should revert to Islam because people in every era must worship their Lord (Allah) according to the law prescribed by Him as revealed to His Prophet (bpuh). The tribes of Israel, for example, were ordered to worship Allah according to the law of Moses. When Prophet Jesus was sent to them, they were ordered to worship Allah according to what was prescribed in the Gospel. Then when Allah sent Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) with the message of Islam to all people, it became incumbent on all people, **the tribes of Israel and all others**, to enter Islam.

After all, what could be more serious than the rejection of the religion which the Creator and Sustainer of everything has enjoined upon all people? Indeed, this is the greatest injustice committed by human beings. It is sad but true that

if a person dies in this state, he or she will be punished and cast into the hellfire to live there for eternity. This concept has been emphasized hundreds of times in the Quran and in the statements of Prophet Muhammad (bpuh). Allah has mentioned:

{And whoever desires other than Islam as religion—never will it be accepted from him, and he, in the hereafter, will be among the losers.}

(Quran 3: 85)

Also, Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) said:

«Whoever among the Christians and Jews hears of me, does not follow what I have brought, and dies in this state will be among the inhabitants of hellfire.» (Recorded by Muslim)

Note that Allah was reported to have said in a prophecy, "And whoever will not listen to my words that he shall speak in my name, I myself will require it of him." (Deuteronomy 18:19)

Since it has been proven that the prophet referred to here is Muhammad (bpuh), this means that whoever believes in the Bible must believe in this prophet and in what this prophet says; otherwise, they will be called to account for that. After they realize who this prophet is, it follows logically that they must adhere to his teachings.

There are those who may not accept Islam because they think that becoming a Muslim means turning one's back on all the previous prophets sent by Allah. This is a false concept because of the following:

Firstly, belief in all the prophets of Allah is a pillar of Islamic faith; hence, one is not a believing Muslim unless he or she believes in Jesus, Moses and all the other prophets (peace be upon them all).

Secondly, belief in the prophets is a part of what each prophet taught. (In other words, every prophet called his people to believe in the prophet who would come after him and to follow that prophet whenever he appeared.) Therefore, rejecting a prophet amounts to rejecting his predecessor.

Thirdly, rejecting any prophet amounts to rejecting the One Who sent him: Allah.

Fourthly, Islam promises great rewards to the followers of previous faiths if they believe in Islam in addition to their previous faith.

The Messenger of Allah (bpuh) said:

«Three people have a double reward: a person from the People of the Scriptures (the Jews and the Christians) who believed in his prophet (Jesus or Moses) and then believes in Prophet Muhammad (by embracing Islam)…» (Recorded by Bukhari)

The first reward is for believing in their previous religion (before knowing about Islam); the second reward is for recognizing the truth of Islam and following it.

From the Islamic perspective, the relationships among the prophets are like the relationships among the links in a chain; rejecting one of them amounts to rejecting all of them. Likewise,

becoming a Muslim means having the honour of believing in all the prophets who came before Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) and not turning one's back on any previous prophets.

Finally, we have to accept Islam because Islam has revived the eternal divine teachings that had been either forgotten, lost, or distorted in the previous messages. Islam retains and maintains the practical teachings mentioned in the previous scriptures (as originally revealed), which are part of the birthright of all people until the end of this world.

A CALL TO REASON

A concluding suggestion: consider what everyone has in common. Come, let us reason together:

{Say: O People of the Scripture, come to a word that is equitable between us and you—that we will not worship except Allah and not associate anything with Him and not take one another as lords instead of Allah. But if they turn away, then say: **Bear witness that we are Muslims** [submitting to Him].} *(Quran 3: 64)*

In the noble Quran, {People of the Scripture} is the respectful title given to the Jews and the Christians. Muslims are being commanded to invite them with noble and respectful words: O People of the Book, O learned people, O people who claim to be the recipients of divine revelation of a holy scripture, let us gather onto a common platform: that we worship none but Allah, because none but Him is worthy of worship and because He is our Lord and Cherisher, our Sustainer and Evolver, worthy of all praise, prayer and devotion.

These truths are basic and an integral part of any human being's intellect. Sort through the layers of indoctrination that hide this simple fact, and one will be able to see that deep down, every human being retains the simple and obvious concept of Allah. In essence, every human being agrees that there is only One God worthy of worship, One God Who is free of partners, helpers, and anything that is ascribed to Him falsely.

THIS IS IT

In this book, you have been shown the right path, and Allah has given you the ability to distinguish right from wrong. He has also given you the freedom of choice as to whether or not to accept the message of Islam. If you accept His call, you will be warmly welcomed into paradise. If you reject it, you will end up with the biggest loss ever imagined: the loss of paradise and the guarantee of dwelling in hellfire for all eternity. Take a moment to comprehend what **eternity** really means. It is a very frightening realization.

To those who have been faithful Christians, you are warmly welcome to embrace Islam because:

- Jesus asked his followers to follow Muhammad (bpuh) whenever he appeared.[24]
- When Jesus comes back before the end of this world, he will follow Muhammad (bpuh) and abide by his teachings.[25]

Yes, since Jesus called his true followers to follow it while he was on the earth, and he will follow Islam when he comes back, all faithful Christians should follow Islam as well.

To those who have been believing Jews, remember that Abraham and Moses surrendered

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[24] See al-Rassi, *The Amazing Prophecies of Muhammad (bpuh) in the Bible: Twenty-eight Proofs from the Bible of Muhammad's Prophethood*.

[25] See al-Rassi, *Eleven Facts about Jesus and His Mother (Mary) in the Islamic Teachings*.

themselves completely to their Lord, whether they called Him Elohenu, God, or Allah. All pride in ethnicity or ancestry is vain; what will matter in the end is your individual relationship with your Creator. This means total submission: Islam.

To those of other faiths or those who, until now, did not feel that they had any faith at all, consider this message **now**, without any reluctance or hesitation, before it is too late—**before death overtakes you**. It could be soon. Who knows?

A WHISPER

Some people are not able to find the truth because of their blind commitment to their beliefs. Their tenacious adherence is usually not based on an intellectual understanding of the teachings but on powerful cultural and emotional influences. Because they were brought up in a particular family or society, they firmly cling to the beliefs of that group, believing that they are upholding the truth.

There are others who are convinced about the religion of Islam and are mentally ready to embrace it. However, when they contemplate the drastic changes it will bring to their lives, changes that might not please their families and communities, they hesitate, and even after taking the decision, they sometimes go back and change their minds later.

It is whispered in their ears that no matter how much money, prestige, status, and power an unbeliever may have possessed in this life, he or she will never have enough to buy entrance into paradise. In the hereafter, the poorest inhabitant of Earth who has testified to the truth of Islam will be far happier and more dignified than the richest person who did not accept the message of Islam.

Rejecting Allah’s message is the biggest sin that one can commit. For this reason, while the soul is still in his or her body, the wise individual should take this opportunity; he or she is still alive to accept Allah’s message before it is too late. The

time for repentance is limited because once death arrives, it is no longer possible to obtain forgiveness.[26] Allah has mentioned:

{[For such is the state of the disbelievers] until, when death comes to one of them, he says: My Lord, send me back that I might do righteousness in that which I left behind. No! It is only a word he is saying…}[27] *(Quran 23: 99-100)*

Religion is, without question, the most important aspect of a person's life, for it determines whether or not a person is rightly guided. It follows, therefore, that choosing the true faith is the most important personal decision one must make, and this decision needs to be based on clarity and total conviction. When it comes to matters of religion and creed, nothing must be left to chance because the one who is truly guided—as opposed to the one who is not—will surely find eternal happiness in the hereafter!

Having been presented with the previous proofs, we should use our intellect to analyse and reason. A crossroad has been reached, and Allah (Glorified is He) calls on all people to follow the clear, straight road and avoid all the murky, dubious ones. The right path has now become distinct from the wrong path, as Allah has mentioned:

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[26] Compiled from Caraballo, *My Great Love for Jesus Led Me to Islam*.

[27] The unbelievers will ask for a 'second chance' when they see the angels ready to punish them, but it will be too late; they were given the time, the intellect and the guidance, but they neglected it for years until time ran out.

{There shall be no compulsion in [acceptance of] the religion. The right course has become clear from the wrong, so whoever disbelieves in taghoot and believes in Allah has grasped the most trustworthy handhold with no break in it. And Allah is Hearing and Knowing.}

(Quran 2: 256)

It is my duty and responsibility, as a resident of this great planet, and as one who has submitted my free will to the law and commandments of the Supreme Being, to urge all human beings to stay away from the worship of false deities—to stop putting their faith in statues, sphinxes, figures, amulets, talismans, horseshoes, and any other objects that have been manufactured by humans or created by God. After first repenting, a person should submit completely to the will of Allah, the Only God of the universe.

HOW TO BECOME A MUSLIM

Every religion has its own requirements for conversion.

Someone who wants to become Jewish must pledge all of the following:

1) To enter the ‘eternal covenant’ between God and the people of Israel and to become a Jew of his or her own free will;
2) To accept Judaism to the exclusion of all other religious faiths and practices, which means to deny the prophethood of Jesus and Muhammad (bpuh) and to deny the revelations that God sent to humankind through them;
3) An undivided loyalty to Judaism and to the Jewish people under all circumstances;
4) To commit to learning the Torah and other Jewish knowledge; and
5) To raise his or her children as Jews.

To be a Christian, one must:

1) Believe that God (Allah) has a partner, a mother, and a son;
2) Believe that every new-born baby is born sinful;
3) Believe that God became a man and descended to Earth to die for the sins of the people;
4) Deny the prophethood of Muhammad (bpuh) publicly; and
5) Deny that the Quran is a revelation from Allah, the Exalted.

However, to become a Muslim is simple. One must:

1) Bear witness that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah (in other words, disown all false gods),
2) Bear witness that Muhammad (bpuh) is His messenger,
3) Believe in all the six articles of faith, and
4) Worship Allah as taught by Prophet Muhammad (bpuh).

Hence, becoming a Muslim is a simple and easy process. If anyone has a real desire to be a Muslim and has full belief that Islam is the true religion of God, all he or she needs to do is to pronounce the *shahadah*, the testimony of faith.[28] Pronunciation of this testimony with a sincere heart brings the person into the fold of Islam. It is the main gateway to Islam.

Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) said:

«Whoever testifies that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, Who has no partner; that Muhammad is His slave and messenger; that Jesus is the slave of Allah, His prophet, and His word[29] which He bestowed in Mary and a spirit created from Him; that paradise (heaven) is true; and that the hellfire is true—Allah will eventually admit him into paradise, according to his deeds.»

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[28] The words of the *shahadah* are: *Ash-hadu al-la ilahailla Allah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan Abduhu wa Rasooluhu*. (I testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and I testify that Muhammad is His slave and messenger.)

[29] It means that Jesus was created when Allah said the word “Be”; when He said it, Jesus was created in the womb of his mother, Mary.

(Recorded by Bukhari)

The first part of the testimony consists of the most important words of truth that Allah has ever revealed to His noble prophets, "There is no deity worthy of worship except Allah." He has stated:

{And We sent not before you any messenger except that We revealed to him that: There is no deity except Me, so worship Me.}

(Quran 21: 25)

Bearing this testimony implies that all forms of worship—whether praying, fasting, supplicating, seeking refuge, or offering an animal as sacrifice—must be directed to Allah and to Him alone. Directing any form of worship to other than Allah (whether to an angel, a prophet, Jesus, Muhammad [bpuh], a saint, an idol, a statue, the sun, the moon, a tree, a cross, or anything else) contradicts the fundamental message not only of Islam but of all the prophets; it is an unforgivable sin in the hereafter, so one must repent before death.

The second part of the testimony means that Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) is the slave and the chosen messenger of Allah.[30] This implies that a true Muslim obeys and follows the commands of the Prophet (bpuh) as mentioned in the collections of his hadiths. One must believe in what he has said, practice his teachings, and avoid what he has forbidden because the hadiths were, in fact,

[30] The meaning of worship is, simply, total submission and complete obedience to Allah's commandments in belief, intentions, statements and actions. This is what is meant by 'slavery to Allah' in Islam.

revelations and inspiration conveyed to him by Allah.

As mentioned earlier, Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) was sent in order to implement the Quran in a practical way through his sayings, deeds, and legislation, as well as all other facets of his life. When his wife Aishah (may Allah be pleased with her) was asked about his character, she replied:

«His character was that of the Quran.»

(Recorded by Muslim and Abu Dawood)

Hence, to truly adhere to the second part of the shahadah is to follow his example in all walks of life. Allah has mentioned:

{Say [O Muhammad]: If you should love Allah, then follow me, [so] Allah will love you and forgive you your sins. And Allah is Forgiving and Merciful.} *(Quran 3: 31)*

A true Muslim must strive to mould his or her life and character to emulate the Prophet (bpuh), for he was a living example for human beings to follow. Allah has said to His Prophet (bpuh):

{And indeed, you are of a great moral character.} *(Quran 68: 4)*

Allah has also said to all people:

{There has certainly been for you in the Messenger of Allah an excellent pattern for anyone whose hope is in Allah and the Last Day and [who] remembers Allah often.} *(Quran 33: 21)*

When one enters the fold of Islam, all previous sins are forgiven; one starts a new life of piety and

righteousness since he or she, in essence, has repented from the ways and beliefs of the previous life. One man told the Prophet (bpuh) that he would accept Islam only under the condition that Allah would forgive his sins; the Prophet (bpuh) asked him:

«Do you not know that accepting Islam destroys all sins that came before it?» (Recorded by Muslim)

As soon as a person accepts Islam, he or she is free of all previous sins. The person's record is wiped clean, as if he or she was born that very day. One should try as much as possible to keep his or her records clean and strive to do as many good deeds as possible; the more good deeds, the more he or she will be elevated in paradise.

It should be emphasized again that accepting Islam does not mean turning your back on the messages of previous prophets (peace be upon them all). Indeed, it is a fulfilment of those messages. Therefore, if you are a Jew or a Christian, accepting Islam and following Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) is a fulfilment of the messages which Moses and Jesus (peace be upon them) brought, as has been clearly described and proven in my book *The Amazing Prophecies of Muhammad (bpuh) in the Bible: Twenty-Eight Proofs from the Bible of Muhammad's Prophethood*.

On the other hand, rejecting Islam means turning your back not only on Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) but also on Prophets Moses and Jesus. Doing so is actually a clear violation of their

messages, and it diminishes your hope of paradise in the hereafter.

It is now up to you to decide where your own future home will be. I wish you all the best!

REMEMBER THIS

To accurately identify the true religion, you must maintain an objective point of view, one which does not allow your emotions to cloud your vision and thereby blind you to the truth. Indeed, you must look at all issues rationally so that you can separate truth from falsehood; then make a judgment and follow it with sincere prayers asking the Almighty to guide you to the right path.

Now that you have read this book and examined the evidence regarding the truthfulness of Islam, I pray to God Almighty that you can and will make the right choice! I invite you to choose Islam as your way of life and to get yourself on the right path! *La ilaha illa Allah* (There is no deity worthy of worship except God), *Muhammadan Rasool Allah* (Muhammad is the Messenger of God).

May the light of truth shine in our minds and in our hearts. May it lead us to peace and certitude in this life and to eternal bliss in the hereafter.

Kind regards,

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APPENDIX

For Further Information about Islam

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GLOSSARY OF ISLAMIC TERMS[31]

abu (or *abi*)	father (of)
hadith	a statement or action of Prophet Muhammad (bpuh) that was remembered and recorded by his Companions and followers
hijab	veil ordained by Allah for believing women
jinn (plural of *jinni*)	non-human, rational beings created by Allah from fire, often referred to as 'demons' or 'devils'. They have free will like humans: some are Muslims, others disbelievers; some are obedient to Allah, others disobedient. Satan is a jinni. Some people try to 'foretell' the future by contacting a jinni. Some disobedient jinn mislead people into thinking that they can tell them what will happen in the future, near or far, or that the jinn can provide people with riches or some sort of power.
mahram	a degree of consanguinity precluding marriage; a man whom a woman may not marry due to the close blood or marriage relationship, e.g., her father, brother, son, uncle, or father-in-law
Ramadan	the ninth month in the Islamic calendar;

[31] If a word has become part of the English language (i.e., is found in a dictionary of Standard English), that spelling is used in this book.

	the month of obligatory fasting
الشهادة testimony, *esp.* the Islamic testimony of faith: *Lâ ilâha illâ Allâh, Muh@ammadun rasool Ullâh* (There is none worthy of worship other than God [Allah], and Muhammad is the Messenger of God)	the Islamic testimony of faith: *Ash-hadu al-la ilaha illa Allah, wa ash-hadu anna Muhammadan Abduhu wa Rasooluhu*. (I testify that there is no deity worthy of worship except Allah, and I testify that Muhammad is His slave and messenger.)
Sharia	Islamic law derived from the Quran and the statements and actions of the Prophet (bpuh)
taghoot	idols; everything evil that is worshipped
zakah	obligatory charity payable by Muslims, to be distributed to poor Muslims who qualify as recipients